Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), Kerala Rare Earths & Minerals Ltd. (KRML) and Cochin Minerals & Rutiles Ltd. (CNRL) for forming a Joint venture company for setting up a mining and minerals seperation plant based upon Chavara Kayamkulam deposits. As a follow-up action, a Project Report on mining and mineral separation has been furnished by KRML to IREL. A draft joint venture agreement has also been received by IREL for scrutiny and comments.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the Government of Kerala and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Nuclear Energy Corporation

886. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new corporations on nuclear energy based on light water reactors from Russia and France;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) At present there is no proposal to set up new corporations for setting up Light Water Reactors.

Revamping of Post Office Saving Bank facility

887. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to revamp the Post Office Saving Bank facility te offer more value-added banking services to the public considering the phenomenal growth in the small savings sector and of the advantage the postal department enjoys through a nation-wide network of post offices;

(b) whether the Department of Posts have entered into a tie-up with IDBI/UTI banks to offer such services across the Post Office Saving Bank counters; and

c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Efforts are being made to revamp the Post Office Savings Bank facility by computerizing the Savings Bank branches. In addition, customers of the Post Office Savings Bank as well as other customers of the Post Office are being offered access to financial services and products such as select mutual funds, bonds and warrant payment facility.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The tie-up envisages cooperation in various spheres like retailing of each other's financial products and services.

Outstanding Amount Against Radio Paging Licensees

888. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge outstanding amount to be paid to Government by radio paging licensees as licence fee agreed to as part of the contract for a protracted period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof with licensee-wise data; and

(c) the course Government propose to pursue to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are in the Statement (*See* below)

(c) Steps have been taken by the Government to recover the license fee dues by sending notices, encashment of Bank Guarantees, termination of licensee and also by initiating Arbitration proceedings. The Radio Paging licensees were also offered a migration package for clearance of dues, which could not materialize. On the basis of Group on Telecom and Information Technology Convergence recommendations and the advice of the Learned Attorney General, the matter was referred to the Tariff Commission for an independent study of the viability of the Paging Industry. The report of the Tariff Commission was received on 05.02.2002 and is under examination by the Government. As regards the dues pertaining to